

## Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-06 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-06

OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01

SAJ-01 /127 W

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P 141259Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6217

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PLOS GR TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENS 8394 (DTG 131605Z AUG 76(NOTAL))

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1. THE GREEK PRESS ON AUGUST 14 GAVE PROMINENCE TO THE

CALL OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY  
AUGUST 13 DURING WHICH HE REPORTEDLY CONVEYED THE SOVIET  
GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE GREEK-TURKISH AEGEAN DISPUTE.  
OTHER MAJOR SUBJECTS COVERED BY THE PRESS INCLUDED  
TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL'S STATEMENT BEFORE  
THE UNSC YESTERDAY (WHICH WAS GIVEN STRAIGHTFORWARD  
TREATMENT WITHOUT COMMENT), THE MEETINGS TODAY IN NEW  
YORK BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE GREEK AND TURKISH  
FOREIGN MINISTERS, AND THE RETURN TO PORT (IZMIR)  
TOMORROW OF THE SISMIK FOR REFUELING AND RESUPPLY.  
THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED ON THE STOPOVER HERE OF PRESI-  
DENT MAKARIOS EN ROUTE TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AT  
COLOMBO.

2. ALL PAPERS GAVE LEAD STORY BANNER HEADLINE TREAT-  
MENT TO THE CALL OF THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR YESTERDAY ON  
MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS TZOUNIS  
(BOTH THE MINISTER AND DEPUTY MINISTER ARE AT THE  
MOMENT AT THE UN IN NEW YORK). HOWEVER, PRO-MOSCOW  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR'S RIZOSPATIS CARRIED  
THE MAIN HEADLINE "USA, NATO AND EC MEDIATION BEING  
PREPARED" WITH A SMALLER SUBHEADLINE READING "USSR:  
NO VIOLENCE NOR THREATS -- SETTLEMENT OF THE CRISIS  
THROUGH PEACEFUL DISCUSSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT  
OF HELSINKI." THIS WAS IN ESSENCE THE MESSAGE CONVEYED  
BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR, ACCORDING TO ALL PRESS REPORTS.  
ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY  
BULLETIN, ON WHICH ALL NEWS ACCOUNTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN  
BASED, IN STATING THE SOVIET POSITION ON THE AEGEAN  
DISPUTE, AMBASSA ULDATSOV RECOMMENDED THAT GREECE  
AND TURKEY DISPLAY SELF-RESTRAINT AND SETTLE THE ISSUE  
WITHOUT THE THREE OR USE OF FORCE. HE REPORTED SAID  
THAT THE SOVIET UNION AS A COASTAL STATE WASH INTEREDTED  
THAT COMMUNICATIONS IN THE AREA NOT BE DISTURBED AS A  
RESULT OF THECRISIS. THE USSR REPORTED SUGGESTED  
THAT SETTLEMENT OF EXISTING DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE  
SOUGHT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN  
ANKARA REPORTEDLY MADE SIMILAR REPRESENTATION TO THE  
GOT.

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3. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS COMMENTED THAT THE SOVIET POSITION  
IN EFFECT FAVORED TURKEY IN THE DISPUTE, INCLUDING  
AVGHI, THE ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE INTERIOR  
(ANTI-MOSCOW).IN THE ONLY EDITORIAL TO APPEAR SO FAR  
ON THE EUBJECT, AVGHI ASKED WHY THE SOVIET UNION AVOIDE  
SIDING WITH GREECE IN THE LIGHT OF TURKISH VIOLATION  
OF INTERNATIONAL LAW BUT INSTEAD TAKES A NEUTRAL  
POSITION? WHY DOES THE USSR PREFER TO IGNORE THE FACT

THAT THE SISMIC HAS VIOLATED GREECE'S SOVERIGN RIGHTS AFTER TURKEY HAD REJECTED JOINT RECOURSE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (UCJ) AS PROPOSED BY GREECE? DOES NOT THE USSR REALIZE THAT ITS STAND STRENGTHENS THE TURKISH POSITION AND LEAVES THE ROAD OPEN FOR THE EFFORTS OF MR. KISSINGER FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATO WITH THE US AS THE MEDIATOR? VGHG GOES ON TO NOTE THAT RECENTLY THE USSR ANNOUNCED IT WOULD CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS BY GREECE FROM SIX TO TWELVE MILES AS A HOSTILE ACT.

4. MOST PAPERS ALSO GIVE COVERAGE TO A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE GOG IN REPLY TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY TURKISH LEADERS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL, FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL, AND OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT. IN ITS STATEMENT THE GOG NOTES THAT IT HAS NEVER REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF ITS DISPUTE WITH TURKEY. THE STATEMENTS BY TURKISH LEADERS THAT TURKEY WILL NOT RESPECT THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA, IF TURKISH VIEWS ARE NOT ADOPTED, NOR OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, NOR DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, ARE PROVOCATIONS AGAINST THE WORLD COMMUNITY GENERALLY AND NOT JUST GREECE. THE STATEMENT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT GREECE HAS NEVER CLAIMED THAT THE AEGEAN IS A CLOSED GREEK SEA NOR HAS GREECE DENIED THAT TURKEY, AS A COASTAL COUNTRY, ALSO HAS RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN.

5. ON HIS ARRIVAL AT ATHENS YESTERDAY MORNING, PRESIDENT MAKARIOS PRAISED THE GREEK GOVERNMENT FOR THE SELF-RESTRAINT AND CALM WITH WHICH IT IS HANDLING THE AEGEAN CRISIS. THE ARCHBISHOP LUNCHEDED WITH PRIME MINISTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARAMANLIS AND INDICATED HE WOULD STOP OVER IN ATHENS ON HIS RETURN FROM COLOMBO IN TEN DAYS FOR A FURTHER MEETING AND EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE GREEK PRIME MINISTER. KUBISCH

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